

Sunday, February 05, 2006

Dear FCC:

I am petitioning you to keep noncommercial PEG TV channels in my area, specifically the Manhattan Neighborhood Network. I understand that we may be losing our access because you are ruling in favor of the phone companies as they compete against cable companies such as the one, which carries our PEG TV channels. I strongly protest this action, which will cause us to lose our PEG TV.

May I inform you of the following?

- In most communities, the noncommercial PEG TV channels deliver more original locally made shows than all the commercial television stations combined. We need to protect localism in the media.
- PEG TV channels reflect the diversity of local communities. They provide noncommercial programming for seniors, for the disabled, for youth, multi-lingual programming for ethnic communities, and others that are often neglected by the commercial media.
- In many communities, PEG provides the only coverage of local government. Eliminating PEG will reduce the opportunity for citizens to stay informed about local government issues.
- PEG and local public access centers are the only means by which individuals and non-profit organizations can freely or affordably access the tools and training to produce their own programming and to express their own point-of-view through the media.
- Democracy works best when the widest range of ideas and opinions are circulated. PEG TV is a rich “marketplace of ideas,” and plays an important role in our democracy.

Please save our PEG TV.

Thank you.